

Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development (ICYD) Council Meeting  
Jessie Parker Building, Starkweather Room  
October 27, 2009, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Preston Daniels, Chair; Director, Department of Human Rights (DHR)  
Adam Lounsbury, Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services (ICVS)  
Judy Jeffrey, Director, Department of Education (DE)  
Kathy Stone, Department of Public Health (IDPH) (Permanently replaces Tom Newton)

Members Absent, w/representative from their agency present:  
Chuck Morris, ISU Extension, 4-H Youth Development - Kelli Tallman, represented

Members Absent: Richard Moore, Director, Child Advocacy Board  
Charles Krogmeier, Department of Human Services (DHS)  
Elisabeth Buck, Director, Iowa Workforce Development (IWD)  
Gary Kendell, Director, Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP)  
Shanell Wagler, Director Office of Empowerment

Steering Committee Members/State Agency Workgroup Members Present:  
Paul Stageberg, Administrator, CJJP  
Steve Michael, DHR, CJJP  
Cyndy Erickson, Education  
Carol Behrer, Youth Policy Institute of Iowa  
Annelise Plooster, DHR, SIYAC Coordinator  
Jeff Grimes, AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy)  
Carol Hinton, Public Health (IDPH)  
Laura Larkin, DHS  
Diane Oak Goode, IWD  
Amy Daniels, DHR, Youth Development project Coordinator  
Ruth Allison, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services  
Saba Hafeez, SIYAC member

Minutes were taken by Dottie Schiltz, Recording Secretary.

### **Objectives and Introductions:**

1. Daniels welcomed attendees and outlined the agenda. He called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. A quorum was present. Objectives outlined were: 1) Elect a council chair; 2) Learn about SIYAC and engage SIYAC members in ICYD Council discussions; and 3) Finalize priority areas for annual report and establish a timeline to complete report (which is due to Legislature/Governor by February 1, 2010).

### **Approval of Minutes**

2. Daniels asked if summary/minutes of the September 29, 2009 meeting had been reviewed by all. Judy Jeffrey provided updated statistical information regarding graduating rates for African American males to reflect current figures. Judy had estimated the figure at 50% graduation rate, the actual figures are 66% graduation rate for African American males. No other corrections heard upon asking for any other edits.

### **Election of Chair**

3. Daniels asked nominations or volunteers for chair. Motion by Jeffrey to nominate Daniels as Chair, and have nominations cease. Nomination was seconded by Lounsbury. Upon vote, motion passed. Daniels then asked for dates to schedule upcoming meetings needed to work on priority areas for annual report. Council will meet from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 24, 2009; Thursday, December 17, 2009; and Wednesday, January 13, 2010.

### **State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council (SIYAC)**

4. Annelisse provided SIYAC brochures on Iowa's Youth Voice, which provides quick facts on SIYAC and a listing of leadership activities and achievements by the group. Saba Hafeez shared what she has been doing with SIYAC and at her school. She noted in her overview that communication is very important with her school board and student council groups, along with the other SIYAC members. SIYAC has a Facebook account to maintain communication.

She expressed her frustrations in attempts to contact and schedule an appointment with Roger Wente, her legislator. Annelise and Saba asked for assistance for SIYAC members to contact legislators. Annelise emphasized the importance for SIYAC to be deemed important in their communities and recognized in the state. She pointed out that SIYAC needs to have partnerships in legislation to develop policy. She noted that a recent convening of state youth advisory councils in Washington, DC, SIYAC was recognized as one of the most effective and accomplished youth advisory councils in the United States and that SIYAC is the model other states are following. Annelise noted the SIYAC focus is geared towards four areas: Teen Nutrition and Wellness, Substance Abuse, Life After Graduation, and Youth Outreach. She queried, "How can ICYD help SIYAC's committees identify legislation for the spring session?" Suggestions and ideas were provided by several members of the council:

- What has been done for SIYAC from ICYD to assist in partnering with legislators? Discussion led to have a letter from Daniels with ICYD and SIYAC headings to "introduce" them and provide some credibility. Michael will draft a letter.
- Connect with legislators once the session begins rather than scheduling individual meetings. The legislators are busy and may not be communicating with many folks on legislative issues right now.
- Suggested legislators to develop partnerships – Amanda Ragan (D – Mason City), Dave Heaton (R – Mt. Pleasant).
- Another suggestion is to connect with Kevin Koester (R – Ankeny) to make a presentation at the next SIYAC meeting.

Annelise noted the importance of SIYAC staying informed on ICYD's issues and for SIYAC to have an identified role to support ICYD's efforts. Lounsbury noted that when his agency has bills in the works, they get input and utilize it. It is very important for everything we do, for example, SIYAC provided great recommendations on the Bullying bill. Annelise continued that SIYAC will bring issues to the table for ICYD's information, to seek guidance, and offer youth input. Reporting more on what SIYAC is focused on; she related that they were currently gathering information on their schools and communities to see how budget cuts are affecting their local areas. The objective is to prevent cuts from hindering positive youth development across the state. In the effort, SIYAC is asking ICYD how the state agencies are working to ensure budget cuts don't take toll on Iowa's youth. In addition, the Governor's Office has contacted SIYAC and will meet to discuss their role in providing the Governor's Office with input. Also, Annelise and two SIYAC members recently met with Senator Grassley's and Representative Loebsack's staff in Washington D.C. to discuss youth issues at the Federal level.

Question to Annelise: What is the Youth Outreach focus area? Annelise explained that the Youth Outreach committee is seeking input from all youth in an effort to build better relationships between students and teachers. SIYAC members are connecting with peers at school and in the community. Saba stated that personally she wants students to be safe and feel comfortable at school.

### **Recommended Priority – Affect of 10% Cuts to Support and Services to Youth**

5. Information brought to table by SIYAC determined to be helpful in this discussion. Council recognized that SIYAC presents a great opportunity to partner together in accomplishing this initiative, and ensures that it relates to big picture. Discussion was led by Cyndy Erickson. Reminder was given to think at the level of policy and or coordinating capacity, to align it with strategic plan, and how to work it with current and future budget reduction plans. Cyndy provided a handout structured with priorities determined at the last meeting as an organizing tool in the decision making. Criteria of 10% Across-The-Board Reduction was shared by Departments and how it will affect youth with fewer health services, smaller school budgets, and staff reductions in many advocacy departments. Group was tasked to divide into four groups to talk about connections heard about departments and to compare them to see how they affect the priorities. Object was to focus on a priority the council as a whole could agree on and work on. Each group appointed a spokesperson to present their decisions. Outcome:
  - Group 4, This group focused on the target issues and how each agency fit into that. The issues that were across all agencies were: Transitioning youth, employment, and at-risk and homeless youth. All of the ICYD state agencies work with youth on these issues.
  - Group 3, Single indicator was graduation and dropouts summative indicator. Policy aspect of this is to achieve or communicate to constituents how we engage parents, youth, and business community and resources capability.
  - Group 2, This group had similar thoughts that by identifying a single issue has communication value. Summative index is a milestone in high school graduation to raise awareness around something can give us impetus that several factors contribute, like determining how to identify the strategies successful in getting kids engaged in school, so less likely to be in trouble.
  - Group 1, Talked about as new statutory council to help move forward, maybe need to review the purpose and the duties of ICYD to ensure all are addressed when the report is submitted. Do we know all resources that we have to bring to the table to help support ICYD duties as identified in House File 315?... What existing

partnerships do we already have? To pick one or two items on the priority list and then mobilize our resources at the table or away to work towards that. Saying that it is extremely important to partner with SIYAC not only one of our duties in House File 315, but what better message do we have if we are working on the same priority. So that is where we put our time and emphasis in discussion, rather than picking out item for indicator. As to vision of ICYD, whichever we choose should be based on data to sell why it is important. What greater way than to be in sync with SIYAC?

In discussion after four groups reported, overall concern noted that whatever priority it is, it should be something that will affect the lives of youth and families that we are trying to support. If we want to make impact on students in our priorities, we need to look at what things were affected by graduation as a factor. Group determined that graduation should be the summative index to the priority. What are barriers that keep the kids from graduating? Cyndy worked towards ending the presentation by pooling the ideas that she had heard. She provided a Summary of Discussion to Identify Priorities. (She has since put this into a narrative handout, see below.) Further discussion, prompted request for everyone to think hard on the strategies they want to support. Suggestion made to form sub-committee to come back with implementation strategies for one focus area. Many were supportive to use graduation rate as the single focused goal, recognizing that many issues affect youth graduating high school. The SIYAC Committee "Life After Graduation" sums up the thinking that youth need to graduate and be prepared for life and it links into many of the other areas. Daniels asked Cyndy if she wanted to pick four people to work with her. Daniels set a timeline of 48 hours to get other ideas to Cyndy than what was discussed today. The people who volunteered to work with Cyndy will be Ruth Allison, Jeff Grimes, Steve Haverman, Carol Hinton, Carol Behrer, and Steve Michael.

Motion to adjourn at 4:25 made by Kathy Stone.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dottie Schiltz, Recording Secretary

## Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development (ICYD) Summary of October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Discussion to Identify Priorities

**Key Question for ICYD Work: Will it improve the lives of students, their families, and communities?**

### **Proposed Priority: Graduation (High School Diploma or Equivalent)**

The majority of those present agreed that increasing the graduation rate and decreasing the rate of students that dropout of high school: has high communication potential as a “summative index”; that the strategies that would need to be pursued would involve all ICYD partners; and present multiple opportunities to collaborate and share/coordinate resources.

In order to have significant impact on increasing the graduation rate, one of the discussion groups suggested that we target those groups of students at high-risk of dropping out of school and identify strategies that address their unique needs. Discussion groups also provided these suggestions to shape the immediate work of ICYD:

- **POLICY:** As policy issues are presented that concern children and youth, ICYD needs to speak with one voice regarding how policies may impact graduation/dropout rates
- **BUILDING CAPACITY:** Community, parents, teachers and youth need to be engaged in data review and the identification and implementation of best practices to improve outcomes. It will be important to identify what resources are available for target populations, where there are gaps and where there are opportunities to partner.

### **Next Steps: Developing a Short-Term Plan Timeline**

#### **Case for Change**

A workgroup will meet to draft a short-term (2010) Action Plan and Timeline that will be presented at the November 24<sup>th</sup> ICYD meeting. In addition to this short-term plan, the workgroup will collect data that will be useful to building a Case for Change, identifying a concrete goal, and selecting target sites/groups. Possible topics for the **November 24<sup>th</sup>** agenda include:

1. **Data review** – Current graduation and dropout rates, rates for targeted populations (poverty, race/ethnic, English Language Learners, Special Education)
2. **Identification of a concrete goal** - By 2015 Iowa’s graduation rate will be... By 2015, the graduation gap for xxx will be narrowed to xxx
3. **Determine the gap** - What is the gap between the current reality and the desired goal? How many students does this represent? Who (selected districts with the lowest graduation rates, counties, target populations, etc.) do we need to focus our efforts on in order to impact change?

The December 17<sup>th</sup> ICYD meeting may then begin to focus on the development of a long-term action plan and timeline.

#### **Workgroup:**

Ruth Allison  
Cyndy Erickson  
Jeff Grimes  
Steve Haverman  
Carol Hinton  
Steve Michael